

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A buffer memory for storing a plurality of digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective first users in an order established by said first users, wherein:

E1 each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of second users,

 each of said digital information blocks includes an indicia of the priority one of said users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks, and

 one of said second users elects to receive a selected one of said digital information blocks responsive to said indicia of a respective digital information block.

Claim 2 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein:

E2 said digital information blocks are electronic medical images; and

 said indicia is a bid price offered by said first users to said second users.

Claim 3 (original): The buffer memory is recited in claim 1, wherein any one of said first users can freely change a respective indicia of the associated one of said digital information blocks.

Claim 4 (previously amended): A remote access medical image exchange system, comprising:

E3 a first facility for converting a plurality of physical medical images of N patients into corresponding digital medical images and for storing the digital medical images in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible electronic digital medical

image database comprised of the stored digital medical images corresponding to the N patients, the first facility comprising:

E3 first means receiving an indicia from each of the respective N patients for generating a listing of the stored digital medical images in an order negotiated by all of the N patients; and a second facility remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a diagnostic service provider having access to the electronic digital medical image database with the listing of the stored digital medical images in the order negotiated by all of the N patients,

wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable the diagnostic service provider to select one or more of the digital medical images from the database for reading from the listing, at the discretion of the diagnostic service provider.

Claim 5 (original): The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the remotely accessible data storage device comprises a server.

E4 Claim 6 (original): The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the remotely accessible data storage device comprises a mainframe computer.

Claim 7 (original): The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the remotely accessible data storage device comprises a redundant array of inexpensive drives (RAID).

Claim 8 (previously amended): The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the first facility further comprises:

E5 second means for scanning the physical medical images and converting the scanned physical medical images into the corresponding digital medical images; and the data storage device for storing the digital medical images.

Claim 9 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein the indicia is an ask price.

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Claim 10 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 1, wherein the ask price is suggested by a respective one of the second users.

Claims 11-28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (previously amended): A system for transmitting, storing, retransmitting and receiving a plurality of work order packages, each containing a work order summary having an indicia of the priority attached to one of the work order packages by a respective requester and a work order, the system comprising:

a first computer system including:

- a first memory storing a first software module containing first operating instructions readable by the first computer system;
- an input device for generating at least one of the work order packages and for changing one of the indicia in the respective one of the work order packages generated by the respective requester; and

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- a first display for monitoring all of the work order packages;

a first communications channel receiving any of the work order packages generated by the first computer system;

a second computer system receiving the at least one of the work order packages from the first communications channel and parsing received work order packages into their respective work order summaries and work orders, the second computer system including:

- a second memory storing a second software module containing second operating instructions readable by the second computer system;

- a first storage memory for storing the work order summaries linked to the respective work orders in a predetermined order based on the indicia in the respective work order packages; and

- a second storage memory for storing the respective work orders;

a second communications channel for receiving the respective work order summaries and a selected one of the work orders from the summary storage memory and the bulk storage memory, respectively; and

E7 a third computer system for selecting the selected one of the respective work orders based on the work order summaries and for receiving the selected one of the work orders, the third computer comprising:

- a third memory storing a third software module containing third operation instructions readable by the third computer; and

- a second display for displaying any of the work order summaries and the selected one of the work orders;

wherein the second computer system, under control of the second operating instructions, reorders all of the stored work order summaries responsive to any change in the indicia of the work order packages generated by the respective requester.

Claim 30 (original): The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the second communications channel comprises:

E8 a low speed communications channel for instructing the second computer system to download and of the work order summaries to the third computer system; and

a high speed communications channel for downloading the selected one of the work orders from the second computer system to the third computer system.

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Claim 31 (previously amended): The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the third computer system comprises a plurality of third computers, and wherein the first storage memory comprises a first memory queue accessible by all of the third computers and a plurality of second memory queues, each of the second memory queues being accessible by only a selected one of the third computers.

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Claim 32 (original): The system as recited in claim 31, wherein a one-to-one correspondence between the partitions and a subset of the third computers is established by respective passwords.

Claims 33-34 (canceled).

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Claim 35 (previously amended): A remote access system for purchasing services, comprising:
a first facility for storing work order packages, each work order package generated by a respective originator and including a work order and an associated work order summary in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible work order database comprised of the stored work order packages;
a plurality of second facilities remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a pool of participating service providers with access to the work order database; and
means for facilitating interactive bidding by the originators of the work order packages and service providers regarding fees to be charged by the participating service providers for the services requested in the work order packages,
whereby the system functions as an open electronic marketplace for the distribution of services to the originators, and
wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable any one or more of the service providers to select and extract one or more of the work orders from the work order

E11 database in accordance with selection criteria established by the service providers and the work order package originators.

Claims 36-38 (canceled).

Claim 39 (previously amended): A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

E12 the digital information blocks are disposed in an order established by all of the users;
 each of the digital information blocks is represented in the GUI by graphic indicators;
 each of the digital information blocks includes an indicia of priority that one of the users attaches to an associated one of the digital information blocks; and
 all of the digital information blocks are freely selectable by at least one of the respective users.

Claim 40 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the indicia of priority is a bid price.

Claim 41 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the indicia of priority is an ask price.

E13 Claim 42 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are characters identifying a respective one of the digital information blocks.

Claim 43 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 42, wherein statistical measures regarding the indicia of priority are displayed for all users on the GUI.

E13 Claim 44 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically.

Claim 45 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 44, wherein:

the at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically in a table; and

E14 the median of the at least one statistical measures is graphically represented on the table as a line.

Claim 46 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 45, wherein the rate of change of the median is graphically represented as an arrow attached to the line representing the mean.

Claim 47 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 45, wherein:

E15 at least one of the statistic measures is represented graphically; and

the corresponding of the at least one of the user-specific statistical measures is represented by symbols proximate to the graphically represented statistical measures.

E14 Claim 48 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein user-specific statistical measures corresponding to the indicia of priority established by a respective one of the users is presented by the GUI for only that respective one of the users.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein [the] a total number of users viewing the GUI is enumerated and displayed by the GUI.

E17 Claim 50 (currently amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein [the] a total number of transactions executed over a specified time period is displayed by the GUI.

Claim 51 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are hash marks, each hash mark being directly associated to a respective digital information block.

Claim 52 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are ordered in queues, each indicator in a queue having the same indicia of priority.

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Claim 53 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein within a given queue, the graphic indicators are ordered according to the time they were received.

Claim 54 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 52, wherein within a given queue, the graphic indicators are, in addition, ordered according to additional information contained in the digital information blocks.

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Claim 55 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

Claim 56 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicator generated by a respective user is "highlighted" when the user opens the GUI.

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Claim 57 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein:
substantially all of the GUI is visible to all users; and
the GUI presents user-specific information on to the user generating a respective one of the digital information blocks.

Claim 58 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are Document Control Numbers.

E19 Claim 59 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are file names.

E20 Claim 60 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

Claim 61 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are reordered as digital information blocks are added and removed.

E21 Claim 62 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the user can change the indicia of priority of the associated digital information block.

Claim 63 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the user can remove a respective digital information block.

E22 Claim 64 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

E23 Claim 65 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are segments of a bar in a bar graph, each segment being directly associated with a respective digital information block.

E24 Claim 66 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 65, wherein statistical quantities associated with all of the bars are displayed for all users on the GUI.

E25 Claim 67 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 66, wherein at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically.

E26 Claim 68 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one of the statistical measures is the mean of all bars, which mean is represented graphically as a line.

Claim 69 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 68, wherein the rate of change of the mean of all bars is graphically represented as an arrow attached to the line representing the mean.

Claim 70 (currently amended): A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services between buyers and sellers, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

E27 the GUI employs graphic indicators to represent offers between the buyers and the sellers;
 the GUI displays a set of first graphic indicators representing offers to buy, the offers being generated by a plurality of first users, in an order established by the first users, each of the offers having an associated bid price; and

 the GUI displays a set of second graphic indicators representing offers to sell, the offers being generated by a plurality of second users, in an order established by the second users, each of the offers having an associated ask price,

 whereby the GUI displays the graphic indicators for all offers to buy and sell to thereby permit all of the users to visualize the marketplace and to thereby permit any buyer to select any offer to sell and any seller to select any offer to buy.

Claim 71 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators correspond to one of the bid price and the ask price.

Claim 72 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 71, wherein the graphic indicators further comprise information extracted from the digital information blocks.

Claim 73 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 72, wherein the information extracted from the digital information blocks further defines the one of the bid price and the ask price.

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Claim 74 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the GUI presents statistical information corresponding to at least one of all bid prices and all ask prices.

Claim 75 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 74, wherein the statistical information is represented graphically.

Claim 76 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 74, wherein the graphically represented statistical information includes a symbol identifying one of the bid price and the ask price for each respective one of the first and the second users.

Claim 77 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 76, wherein the GUI displays the graphically represented statistical information and arithmetic calculations based on the statistical information.

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Claim 78 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein a selected one of the arithmetic calculations is presented only to a corresponding one of the first and second users.

Claim 79 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the total number of the first and second users viewing the GUI is presented by the GUI.

Claim 80 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the total number of transactions executed during a predetermined period time is presented by the GUI.

Claim 81 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are hash marks, each hash mark being directly associated to a respective digital information block.

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Claim 82 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are ordered in queues, each indicator in a queue having the same bid price or ask price.

Claim 83 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein, within a given one of the queues, the graphic indicators are ordered according to the time they were received.

Claim 84 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein, within a given one of the queues, the graphic indicators are sorted based on information extracted from the respective digital information blocks.

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Claim 85 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

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Claim 86 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicator generated by a respective one of the first and second users is identified to that user when the GUI is opened.

Claim 87 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are Document Control Numbers.

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Claim 88 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are file names.

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Claim 89 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

Claim 90 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are reordered as digital information blocks are added and removed.

Claim 91 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein one of the first and second users can change the indicia of priority of the associated digital information block.

Claim 92 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein one of the first and second users can remove the associated digital information block.

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Claim 93 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

Claim 94 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are segments of a bar, each segment being directly associated with a respective digital information block.

Claim 95 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 94, wherein statistical quantities associated with at least one of the segments of the bar are displayed for all users on the GUI.

Claim 96 (original): The GUI as recited in Claim 95, wherein at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically.

Claim 97 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 96, wherein the at least one of the statistical measures is the mean of all of the segments, which mean is represented graphically on the GUI as a line.

Claim 98 (previously amended): The GUI as recited in Claim 97, wherein the rate of change of the mean of all of the segments is graphically represented on the GUI as an arrow attached to the line representing the mean of all of the segments.

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Claims 99-102 (canceled).

Claim 103 (currently amended): A buffer memory operated by a first user for storing a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective second users in an order freely established by the second users, wherein:

each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of third users;

each of the links includes an indicia of the priority a respective one of the second users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks; and

each of the third users is presented with a link list ordered responsive the indicia associated with the links stored in the buffer memory and permitted to select any of the links.

Claim 104 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 103, wherein each of:

the digital information blocks comprises at least one electronic file controlled by a respective one of the second users; and

the indicia comprises a bid price offered by the respective second user, which bid price is payable when one of the third users follows that link to the at least one electronic file.

Claim 105 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 104, wherein the at least one electronic file comprises an electronic medical image.

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Claim 106 (original): The buffer memory as recited in claim 103, wherein a respective second user can freely change a respective indicia of the link associated one of said digital information blocks.

Claim 107 (currently amended): A storage medium for storing computer readable instructions for permitting a respective computer to generate a graphical user interface (GUI) providing a listing of N electronic information blocks arranged in an order established by all of the M second users, the GUI being viewable by at least one of a plurality of third users and the GUI permitting any of the third users to select any of the N electronic information blocks, wherein:

each of the N electronic information blocks has an associated indicia established by a respective one of M second users; and

N and M are positive integers greater than 1.

Claim 108 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the GUI permits any one of the third users to retrieve a freely selected one of the N electronic information blocks.

Claim 109 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein N is equal to M.

Claim 110 (original): The storage medium as recited in 107, wherein the listing identifies a respective storage location for each of the N electronic information blocks.

Claim 111 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein all of the indicia associated with the N electronic information blocks are viewable by the third users.

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Claim 112 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein each of the N electronic information blocks comprises a respective electronic medical image.

Claim 113 (original): The storage medium as recited in claim 107, wherein the indicia assigned by an Mth second user to an Nth electronic information block permits the Mth second user to control the relative 3 position the Nth electronic information block relative to the N-1 other electronic information blocks 4 included in the listing provided by the GUI.

Claims 114-115 (canceled).